



EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

Having requested help through their municipality, the owners of this Passaic County home are among many who received prompt technical and financial assistance through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) in FY 2000. This slope stabilization project was part of a \$940,000 flood damage remediation effort NRCS carried out after widespread flooding in September 1999. In August 2000, when flash flooding caused devastation in many areas of northwestern New Jersey, NRCS engineers immediately began EWP work. Approximately \$600,000 in Federal funds were provided to the recovery effort.

To learn more about NRCS in New Jersey:

- Visit our website at www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov
- Contact us at a local USDA Service Center
- Or call us at 732-246-1171



NRCS providing engineering assistance for manure storage facility expansion, Salem County dairy farm

Cover photo:

Wastewater system for water quality protection, designed for a Warren County dairy farmer by NRCS staff. A collection and storage system has also been developed for manure management on this farm.

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NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Land, Water and People

Highlights from New Jersey
in Fiscal Year 2000

*Working hand-in-hand
with New Jersey's farmers and landowners
to conserve natural resources and maintain
a clean and healthy environment.*



1370 Hamilton Street
Somerset, NJ 08873
State Conservationist: Joe DeVecchio

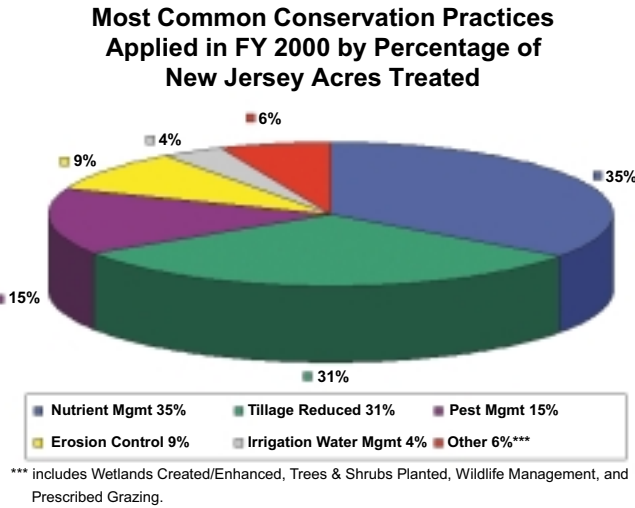
NRCS CONSERVATION PROGRAMS BENEFIT NEW JERSEY'S LAND, WATER AND PEOPLE

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works with New Jersey's 16 Soil Conservation Districts and state conservation partners to conserve, improve and sustain natural resources for New Jersey's residents. NRCS employees and their conservation partners provided information and technical assistance directly to more than 10,600 New Jersey landowners and farmers in fiscal year 2000.

Requests for NRCS services and staff workload continue to increase. Workload analyses indicate a need for 86 NRCS field staff, while current NRCS technical assistance funding for New Jersey allows for only 40. As a result, NRCS conservationists are able to manage only half of the demand for agricultural technical services.



In fiscal year 2000, NRCS conservationists worked directly with farmers and landowners to plan conservation systems on 32,222 acres in New Jersey to improve water quality, reduce erosion, and maintain wildlife habitat. NRCS staff helped apply conservation practices on 17,828 acres.



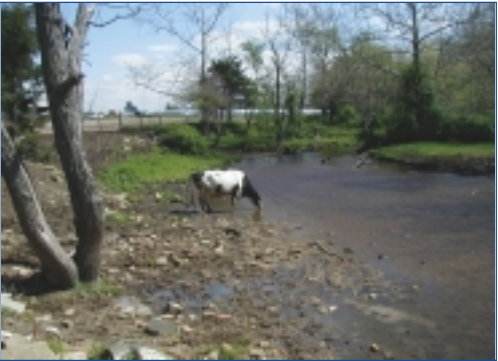
Data on NRCS conservation progress is now available to the public on-line. Visit the website: www.nrcs.usda.gov/prms; go to "Products."

The one-to-one, direct technical assistance provided by conservation employees brought real improvement to New Jersey's natural resources. Highlights of their accomplishments for FY 2000 include:

- Nutrient management plans developed for 16,655 acres.
- Conservation systems that improved the natural resource condition - applied on 930 acres of grazing land and 14,065 acres of cropped land.
- Pest management plans applied on 7,097 acres.
- 2,050 acres of cropland protected against excessive erosion.
- 63 irrigation water management systems installed on 1,776 acres.
- Habitat enhanced for threatened and endangered species on 1,200 acres.
- 48 animal waste management systems installed.

INTEREST IN EQIP PROGRAM REMAINS HIGH

FY 2000 was the second year that NRCS leveraged \$2 in State funding for every \$1 available through the Federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), for a total of \$2,200,000. Interest among the farm community in the combined EQIP/State Conservation Cost Share Program (CCSP) remained high, with \$10 million in initial requests for financial assistance. Only about one-fifth of the need for assistance could, therefore, be approved. EQIP/CCSP funds were obligated to assist farmers with conservation plans to address nonpoint source pollution control, animal waste management, erosion control and irrigation, and nutrient and pest management needs.



COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

NRCS and partners assisted many communities with natural resource issues and watershed planning.

- The Urban Conservation Action Partnership (UCAP) developed a workshop which was presented in several communities to educate public works employees on goose reduction strategies to lower nonpoint source pollution, and on vegetation management in parks and public areas to control soil erosion and beautify the community.
- NRCS provided technical guidance to a five-county steering committee of the Millstone River Watershed PL-566 Project. The committee is addressing flood damage reduction, aquifer recharge, open space preservation, stream health and recreational development within the 180,000-acre watershed.
- South Jersey Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council coordinated a multiagency effort to rebuild Repaupo Creek's tidegate structure, providing protection to over 450 homes and businesses along the Repaupo Creek in Gloucester County. North Jersey RC&D has begun implementation of the Watershed Management planning process for the Upper Delaware Watershed.

SOIL SURVEY PROGRESS

NRCS soil scientists worked on soil survey updates in five counties in FY 2000: Sussex, Warren, Gloucester, Cumberland and Salem. Currently, modern soil surveys are available in 16 of New Jersey's 21 counties. Union and Cape May counties' soil surveys are now complete and are awaiting publication. NRCS soil scientists are currently mapping the Essex County survey.

In FY 2000, soil surveys were digitized in four counties. To digitize the data in a soil survey, NRCS uses aerial photos as a base to delineate soil lines and boundaries. Once surveys have been digitized, they can be used in any Geographic Information System (GIS) for watershed and land use planning.

Digitized surveys are available in thirteen counties in New Jersey. Digital soils data may be downloaded free of charge: http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/ssur_data.html

Digital Soil Surveys

- Complete and certified
- In process
- Pending

October 2000

